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### Soundings

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On the cover: Photo courtesy of Cruise Michigan. (Story on page 5.)

# Solar Observatory is "Kid-driven"

at O'Connor of the Detroit District Regulatory office has been volunteering as a field biologist at the McMath-Hulbert Solar Observatory, once a world-renowned University of Michigan research facility. Saved from bulldozers by a local philanthropist, the observatory is now a non-profit learning center atop a

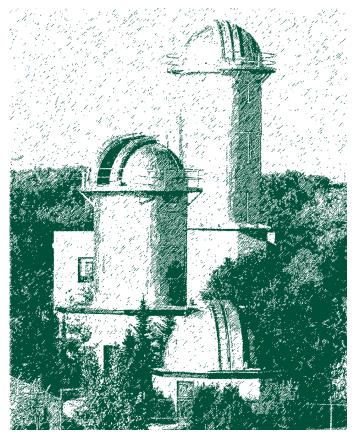
glacial morain surrounded by several different types of wetlands. It is a "handson" learning place where children can use computers, video cameras and telescopes, make pottery, take nature walks, broadcast from the observatory's low-power radio station, record their own audio tapes, or take part in a dozen other activities. During a recent conversation with Pat, the observatory director, Jim Ross, said, "if you haven't noticed, this place is kiddriven; we give them the tools and let them go."

Once again breaking new ground, the Observatory is using video-telconferencing technology, similar to that now used by the District, to conduct realtime dialogs between scientists in the field and stu-

dents in the classroom. Activities are designed to integrate the arts with science and technology. The center is in real time audio-visual contact with the Detroit Zoo, the Detroit Science Center, NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and a Great Lakes research vessel, with more links planned. Schools in Pontiac, Warren, and Grosse Pointe are purchasing "video-tel" equipment to utilize the observatory's resources.

Pat recently was on hand as the Corps' representative during two "Empowerment Days" as a science and wetland mentor to groups from the the alternative education programs of 27 Oakland County schools.

He taught aerial photo interpretation of the site and led field walks that emphasized the water quality functions of wetlands. By the end of the day, some of the 200 participating students had learned to operate a digital camera and used observatory computers to publish a full-color pamphlet describing the day's events.



Hoping to eventually integrate GPS and GIS technology with the observatory's remote learning capabilities, Pat has initiated a project to create a map to describe the plants and wetland types at the site, which is on Lake Angelus Road just a short drive north from the "Great Lakes Crossings" mall at Baldwin Road and I-75.

The observatory has open house every Sunday from noon to 4 pm, and adults are welcome, too. For more information on activities, go to http://www.rust.net/~mcmathob. Pat warns that after you have visited the place you may not be able to stay away.

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### Commander's Column by Lt. Col. Robert J. Davis, District Engineer



t is hard to believe that this will be my last Commander's column in Soundings. On July 7th, Lieutenant Colonel Rick Polo will assume command of this great organization. Rick comes to the District from the headquarters in Washington D.C. where he currently serves as the Chief of the Commanders Planning Group. In this position, he reviews briefings, speeches, travel plans, and strategic activities for the Chief of Engineers. He comes to the District with a wealth of knowledge. I've personally known Rick for over 20 years and am confident that he will do a superb job as your new commander.

My family and I thank you for your hospitality over the last two years. Unfortunately, like all other lieutenant colonel commanders in the Army, we must move on after having the opportunity to command for two years. My next assignment is in the Pentagon, where I will be

the program manager for Army military construction.

My greatest reward in the last two years has been to work with all of you, the wonderful employees of the District. You are dedicated, professional, and passionately committed to public service. You often make personal sacrifices in the accomplishment of our mission, and often go unnoticed. When I hear pessimists ask the question, "What does my government do for me?" I feel blessed to work in this organization.

The average citizen of this country benefits from our work every single day. Were it not for us, low sulfur coal could not economically get from the hills of Montana to the power plants along the lakes. Iron ore could not get to the steel mills from the mines in Minnesota to make our automobiles. We operate the locks and accomplish the dredging. Citizens could not enjoy the benefits of recreation, commerce, and leisure activities were it not

for our construction and maintenance of safe breakwater structures throughout the lakes. Citizens could not enjoy pristine rivers, streams, and wetlands were it not for our regulatory branch carefully balancing the need for environmental protection and development. I could go on with more examples, but won't. Each of you has played a role in these, and many other, activities of the District.

Additionally, there were many other things that occurred within the district in the last two years, that you might not have noticed. We became more efficient by reducing our cost of doing business indicators, we streamlined our organization with restructuring, we improved communications both within and outside the organization, and we continued to improve and refine the Project Management Business Process. We did all of this without a reduction in force.

As I have said many times before, the future of the District is very bright. We are successfully completing many projects, such as the \$45M Fort Wayne flood control and the \$8M Saginaw River environmental dredging projects, that serve as excellent examples of how it is done right. Our in-house operations at Area Offices are lean, efficient, and very responsive. In the not-so-distant future, we will be leading Great Lakes planning initiatives for the Corps and constructing a new lock at the Soo. We continue to establish and cultivate great relationships with our non-federal sponsors. Finally, we will soon begin the process of turning over the Fox River locks back to the State of Wisconsin, an action that has been in the works for over 14 vears.

In summary, my family and I are sad to go. We wish all of you well. Your new commander is topnotch and will be leading you into a very bright future. God Bless!

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#### **Detroit District 2000—2001**

# Leadership Development Program

he next session of the Detroit District Leadership Development Program for 2000–2001 will begin in October 2000. This is a one-year program designed to develop and sharpen leadership skills for non-supervisory permanent employees. This year's leadership development program will be a joint program with participants from Detroit and Chicago Districts. Employees will find the program challenging and informative, as well as personally rewarding. All are invited to participate in the program. Additional information will be forthcoming in July.

#### **LEADERSHIP...**

Listening
Empowering
Ambition
Desire
Example
Respect
Self-esteem
Heart
Inspiration
Pride

## Maritime Day 2000





BG Robert Griffin with Duluth City Councilor Ken Hogg (above) and Ralph Kobeska, American Merchant Marine Veterans Viking Chapter board member (left), at the Maritime Day 2000 program.

(Photos by Lisa Marciniak, Port Promotion Manager)

### Retirees' Corner

arrel "Red" Pederson retired from the Kewaunee Area Office on June 3 with over 38 years of service. Of these 38 years, two years were in the military service, while the remaining 36 years were all employed at the Kewaunee Area Office. Red worked as a Surveying Aid, Construction Inspector, Construction Representative, Supvy. Construction Representative, and for the past 8 years, as a Civil Engineering Technician in the O & M Section. His vast knowledge and experience will be missed. Everyone at the Kewaunee Area Office wishes Red and his wife Elaine an enjoyable retirement!

**To Detroit District retirees:** We need to hear from you! We're looking for information about your everyday lives and special events, but mostly, we would like to know what you're doing now.

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# -O Corps Speaks...

#### March and April were Education Months in Marquette

In March, **Richard Gutleber** of the Marquette Field Office, Enforcement Branch, Regulatory Office was invited to speak to the Protected Areas Management class at Northern Michigan University. The topic was the role regulatory agencies have in natural resource protection, and the problems that are inherent in a process which attempts to balances development and conservation.

Once again, in March and April, the Marguette Field Office was visited by a number of middle school students participating in 'Job Shadowing', a program sponsored by the Ishpeming-Neagunee Community Council. Students participating in the program are following a biological/natural resource curriculum. Rich Gutleber was asked a number of questions ranging from, what is his background?; what does the job involve?; what is it like being a government employee and are there job opportunities?; to 'Is there a lot of paperwork?" After the question and answer period the students were taken outside for a demonstration of field equipment. It was reported they enjoyed the global positioning equipment more so than the shovel.

Adam Fox gave two presentations on low water levels on March 16 and 18 at the Saginaw Bay Yacht Club in Essexville and the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, respectively. Guests who attended his presentations posed questions on the topics of:

- Dredging—permits, relaxation of time constraints, and comments of ecological impacts.
- Diversion of water thru Chicago.
- Selling/exporting water.
- Increasing flows out of Lake Superior—what can be done?
- Urbanization effects on runoff/groundwater supplies and climate change.

Roger Gauthier made a presentation to the Chicago Law School on April 27 and to the Ann Arbor Power Boat Squadron on May 1. The topic for the Ann Arbor Power Squadron was the current water level crisis in the Great Lakes, more specifically:

- What is being done about it.
- Who is doing what.
- What effects this has on navigation in the Great Lakes, local marinas and boating.
- How U.S. Power Squadron can help educate the public relative to the above.

On April 8 and 10, Roger Gauthier and Bob Derouche spoke at public meetings for Rockwood and Algonac. Approximately 300 area residents attended the Algonac meeting at Algonquin Middle School. The topic at both was Great Lakes water levels. Roger talked about water level forecasts, Great Lakes hydrology, Lake Superior inflows, Niagara River outflows and Corps dredging. Bob spoke on dredging permits, dredge disposal and shore structures.

On April 26, **Jeff Weiser** spoke to Cruise Michigan, a group of Port Directors and municipal employees that coordinate Great Lake cruise activity in Michigan. Their main interests were water levels and dredging, but were also

interested in cost shared programs with the Corps. Interesting facts... In 1999, there were approximately 3,000 cruise passengers. In 2000, they are expecting 20,000! However, if the water levels don't go up, they'll have to come to

Detroit by car!



The West Michigan Science Festival was held April 15-26. The USACE Grand Haven Area Office was involved in two events. The first was titled "Hazardous Waste Really Bugs Me." Twenty students toured an active Superfund Groundwater Treatment Facility to see how biology is helping clean up our environment. There were presentations in the on-site laboratory where students were able to see "bugs" (microorganisms) which are being used to eat the contamination.

Students participated in some ongoing experiments and testing with assistance by laboratory personnel. The second was titled "Don't Keep Dredging THAT Up!" Over 100 students participated in this event. Students took sand tables and created meandering rivers. In the process, a river delta will form and siltation will occur. Students then dredged their deltas to keep channels clear for shipping and navigation. Finally students saw how an earthquake can liquefy the around and cause buildings to fall over. Both events were a great success and enjoyed by all involved.

**Dave Bowman** presented a seminar entitled "Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material from Milwaukee Harbor and Other Locations" to the Marquette University School of Civil and Environmental Engineering on April 18.

**Bart Rohrer** made a presentation to the Birmingham Power Boat Squadron on May 9.

Marie Strom and Dave Gerczak made presentations and prepared a display on GIS opportunities for cost sharing and funding for the IMAGIN Forum in Lansing from May 8—10.

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# -O Corps Speaks...

### Rouge River sojourn

The Rouge River Water Festival 2000 was by all accounts a resounding success! In fact, the Festival committee said that they "desire to institutionalize this unique one-day educational event and, if possible, conduct it on an annual basis." The Festival was sponsored by the Wayne County Department of Environment and was held at the University of Michigan, Dearborn Campus on May 4. Over 1600 fifth graders from a total of 33 elementary schools from 16 Rouge River Watershed communities participated. The Festival had exhibiters as well as presenters. The Corps participated as presenters. Seventy-five presenters from private, public. Federal, and state agencies spoke

to individual classes of 5th graders on such varied subjects as wetlands, aquifers, streamflow, pollution, and many others. The Corps had the largest representation.

Les Weigum and Paul Baxter talked about dredging and pollution in the Great Lakes. Paul brought in some pond sediment (unpolluted) and had the kids feel the material to guess its consistency. He then sieved the material to demonstrate the various size fractions (gravel, sand, silt and clay).

**Bill Seib** and **Michelle Thrift** talked about wetlands, their inhabitants, and the food web. The students then had an opportunity to view live macroinvertebrates, frogs, a Pitcher

plant, as well as live microscopic aquatic organisms with U of M microscopes.

**Dave Luff** and **Mike Milspaugh** had their class outside, and talked about "Working Underwater." They showed and demonstrated the various kinds of underwater equipment.

John Love discussed the hot topic of the summer, "Great Lakes Water Levels." He also demonstrated the automated equipment used for measuring water levels. The kids were wonderful, full of curiosity and interest. These Corps volunteers did our agency proud!

Presentations made by the H&H staff during the week of May 15–20:

- On 16 May, Dave Schweiger made a presentation on lake levels to 40 members of the Mt. Clemens Power Squadron in Mt. Clemens.
- On 17 May, Carl Woodruff made a presentation on the Great Lakes to the Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club in Traverse City, Michigan. The meeting was attended by about 40 members and quests.
- On 20 May, Roger Gauthier made a presentation on lake levels to a homeowners group on Drummond Island.

On June 15, **Dave Schweiger** made a water levels presentation to about 40 members of the New Baltimore Chamber of Commerce. Mary Shiner of Congressman Spencer Abraham's office was also in attendance.

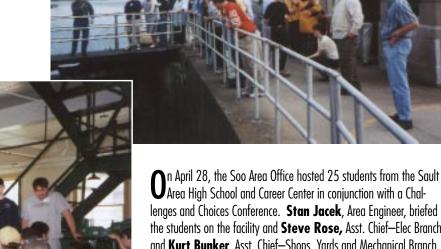
ΪχΪ



Bill Seib and 'the kids' at the Rouge River Water Festival 2000. Summer 2000 Soundings 🚻

# Corps Speaks...

### "Challenges & Choices" Tour



lenges and Choices Conference. **Stan Jacek**, Area Engineer, briefed the students on the facility and **Steve Rose**, Asst. Chief—Elec Branch, and **Kurt Bunker**, Asst. Chief—Shops, Yards and Mechanical Branch, gave a tour of the facility. This group is comprised of students from high schools in Chippewa County.

#### Celebration of **APA Month**

ay was Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, recognizing the accomplishments of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. On May 23, a big celebration event took place in the McNamara Building.

The event included a speaker from the Wayne State University, followed by Vietnamese food sampling. The sampling menu was out of this world! In addition, there were video, displays, literatures, posters, etc. The event was co-sponsored by the IRS and the COE.



Scenes from the student tour ... Top right photo: The tour is conducted by Steve Rose (far left) and Kurt Bunker (far right).

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#### Civilian Service Award

eff Weiser, Programs and Project Management Division, was presented the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his exceptional performance between January 1999 and September 1999 as a member of the USACE Corporate Outreach Focus Team. Balancing the demands of a highly compressed schedule and rigorous methodology, the team not only developed training curricula and other materials, but also served as trainers in support of the Corps Outreach objectives. Jeff's





#### **Certificates of Appreciation**

LTC Robert Davis awards Jimmie Glover (left) and Colette Luff with Certificates of Appreciation.

understanding of Customer Outreach in relation to the USACE mission and functions and his ability to analyze and integrate relevant information from multiple sources played an invaluable role.

#### Leadership Group Grads

raduation is soon **U**approaching for the 1999-2000 Leadership Group. This year has proven to be a wonderful success with a great group of participants. These participants are: Carole Bell, Debra Benson, Andrea Duff, Adam Fox, Francine Grant, Diane Kroll, Eleanor Laethem, Mary Ann Lee, Robert Meyer, Tarsus Moore, Gina Nathan, Carl Platz, Michael Stencil, Eric Tauriainen, and Yvonne Tonev.

The final session will be held on the 23, 24, and 25 May where the participants will be hearing some wonderful overviews of the District, speaker on the Everglades and receiving their certificates from LTC Davis.

Congratulations and well done!

#### GLC Outstanding Service Award Recipients

Roger Gauthier, Chief of the District's Watershed Hydrology Branch received one of two prestigious Great Lakes Commission Outstanding Service award for the Year 2000. The Outstanding Service Award was given for Mr. Gauthier's role as co-chair-person of the GLC's Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) Advisory Board, representing key supporters of Internet information exchange

across the region.

Mr. Gauthier was also recognized for his role as coeditor of the Corps/GLC publication "Living With the Lakes." The "Living with the Lakes" publication has been in very high demand with water levels falling around the Great Lakes. Nearly 35,000 copies of the publication have been requested and distributed since it was published seven months ago.

The second award was given to **Jan Miller** of the Corps' Great Lakes Regional Office in Chicago for his role as a chairperson of the Great Lakes Dredging Team.

Two recipients of this award from one agency is unusual and a distinction of merit. The awards were presented in Duluth, MN in early May 2000 in front of representatives from U.S. States and Canadian Provinces, international and federal agencies and other dignitaries."



(Kudos continues on next page) Summer 2000 Soundings H



#### **Mother-Daughter** Honors



Above left: Daughter Shannon Satchel Above right: Mom Yvonne Toney

hannon Satchel, daughter Jof Yvonne Toney, Program Analyst in Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, participated in the Career Exploring Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, Attorney General's Office, Explorer Scouts Program, from September 1999 thru May 18, 2000. In addition to learning about various career options in the fields of law and law enforcement and the importance of preparation and goal setting, she participated in structured debates and a mock trial at the end of the program. Shannon received a letter and a certificate of completion for her participation in the program from the U.S. Attorney General's Office.

Shannon is a 9th grader at Redford Senior High School in Detroit. As a class assignment, she was tasked with writing a poem. As a result of this task, her poem "African Nights" was selected by the school and submitted in the "Young Poets Contest - Spring

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April 12, 2000

Mr. Stanley Jacek, P.E. Administrative Contracting Officer US Army Corps of Engineers St. Mary's Falls Canal Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

RE: Your Letter of 3/28/00 with regard to Poe Lock Repairs

Dear Mr. Jacek:

Thank you for your letter of congratulations on the early and successful completion of work on the Poe Lock Repairs. We sincerely appreciate your very positive acknowledgement of our firm's accomplishments on this difficult and hazardous project. Your recognition of the quality workmanship and exemplary professionalism displayed by our field and office staff in all areas of performance was especially

We also would like to express our gratitude to you and your staff for the outstanding effort that the Corps Team expended to make it possible for this project to be completed in such a positive manner. Their diligence to duty, professionalism, skill, knowledge, and williness to be available and responsive made the outcome possible. You truly have one of the finest staff's of any corps area or district that we have had the

All of us at Durocher believe that the partnering spirit was alive and well during the entire course of this project. Working together in this spirit we achieved a remarkable level of job performance, safety and project. Working together in this spirit we achieved a tental kappe fever of job performance, safety and quality. From our view it was truly a "American Happening" in which both organizations can be justifiably proud. At the first partnering meeting Col. Davis stated his goal for the district was to have delighted lock customers/users at the completion of this contract. We can both be pleased to report to him that this

We look forward to future successful projects with your fine organization.

FJVA/kml

cc: Lt. Col. Robert Davis

2000"

with Creative Communication, Inc in Utah. The Poetry Committee selected her poem as "one of high merit" and it has been chosen for publications with Creative Communication, Inc in Utah. Her poem "African Nights" will be headed for publication this June.

Shannon has received additional recognition at Redford Senior High School. She received a Certificate of Achievement for "Academic Excellence Cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 and Higher." She also received a plaque for the most outstanding 9th grade student for her Social Studies achievements from the Social Studies Department. She is a

ticipant in the Compact Program at Redford. Her future career goals are to become a lawyer and journalist.

Yvonne Toney also wrote and submitted a poem entitled "ROSE" to the International Library of Poetry in Maryland last year. Her poem was selected and she received their "Editor's Choice Award" for her entry. Her poem has been published in America at the Millennium - The Best Poems and Poets of the 20th Century and is available for anyone to read.

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# Doretta Battles receives division award

n the Winter 1999 issue of *Soundings*, an article described the prompt support given to the Charleston District during Hurricane Floyd and the role of Doretta Calhoun Battles in initiating the immediate response.

Detroit District nominated Doretta (formerly of LRE-LM and presently working in LRE-CT) for "The Great Lakes and Ohio River Division-Disaster Responder of the Year Award: 1999." Doretta has been selected for that honor for her outstanding work

effort and initiative in successfully responding to several disasters this past year "to Serve the Nation."

At the annual Engineer Day ceremonies, Doretta received a beautiful plaque signifying her accomplishments, along with a personal "Star Note." Following is



a letter from LTC Robert R. Davis congratulating Doretta on her award:

To: Doretta Calhoun Battles

From: LTC. Robert J. Davis, District Engineer

Subject: Great Lakes and Ohio River Division - Disaster Responder of the Year Award: 1999

#### Congratulations Doretta;

It is with great pride that I share and convey Brigadier General Robert Griffin's accolades to you for being selected as CELRD's Disaster Responder of the Year for 1999, for all that you have done "to Serve Our Nation" this past year in times of crisis.

#### Whether:

- going out at a moment's notice on a cold and wet night to stand on the tarmac at Willow Run Airport to count pallets of ice being loaded on cargo planes bound for Puerto Rico, or...
- coming downtown in the middle of the night to approve travel orders and arrange for airplane tickets for departing emergency responders, including our Detroit District Ice Planning and Response Team, that needed to be on their way to their destination within six (6) hours of the Deploying Orders being sent, or...
- staying well into the night on a Friday to successfully respond to a emergency request to immediately supply and deliver 500,000 sandbags to a sister district (Charleston) to help protect rising flood waters of the Waccamaw River at Conway, North Carolina....

It was your outstanding initiative, competence and perseverance, as well as your demonstrated work effort and efficiency, that helped to make these Hurricane support/response efforts a real success story.

Congratulations for many jobs well done!

Efforts like these that you and your co-workers continue to put forth are what gives the Corps its great reputation. Keep up the excellent work; you are our greatest asset.

Robert R. Davis LTC. Engineer Commanding Summer 2000 Soundings 11



### Recognized Employees

Recently the Detroit Federal Executive Board at its 23rd Annual Federal Employees Recognition Ceremony recognized three District employees. Shirley Dismuke, Carletta Degroat and Scott Thieme received awards as the District's Outstanding Employees for the year.

Shirley Dismuke, a personnel specialist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center was nominated based on her exemplary performance of duties and her selfless service to the Combined Federal Campaign. Carletta Degroat received her nomination for her untiring efforts in the Combined Federal Campaign and infectious enthusiasm she brought to the Black History month celebration. For his unwavering support, encouragement and guidance to the Districts Leadership Development program Scott Thieme was nominated.

These three exemplify the Corps strategic vision and have made this district a better place. Please join me in congratulating them on their fine achievements.



Scott Thieme and Shirley Dismuke with their award plagues. (Carletta Degroat not available for photo.)



Safety Bulletin:

# Sleep deprivation: Causes and consequences

#### Causes of sleep deprivation

Simply put, sleep deprivation means not getting enough sleep. Some of the causes may include:

- Not allowing enough time to sleep:
- Excessive worry or depression;
- Repeated awakenings from noise;
- Working at night; and
- Medical illness causing pain or difficulty breathing.

Other potential causes of excessive sleepiness may be disorders such as obstructive sleep apnea (obstruction of the nose and/or throat that results in pauses of breathing during sleep), nocturnal myoclonus (jerking of legs during sleep which causes brief awakenings), and narcolepsy (a relatively rare sleep disorder that causes uncontrollable sleepiness during the day).

#### Consequences of sleep deprivation

Sleep deprivation is not only a nuisance, it can also lead to motor vehicle and work accidents, decreased productivity, and may even cause difficulties with social relationships because of irritability. Sleep deprivation-related accidents are most likely to happen in the early to mid-afternoon and in the very early morning hours. These are the times when everyone is least alert.

#### How can accidents be avoided?

Getting enough sleep at night or adding naps in the afternoon can help prevent serious accidents due to sleepiness. If you show signs of a sleep disorder or have your sleep disrupted by symptoms of a medical illness or depression, you should see a physician.

To rate your sleepiness and to read other safety related messages, go to the Detroit District Safety Newsletter on the intranet at http://Lre42.usace.army.mil/index.html.

ccording to a recent poll by the National Sleep Foundation (NSF), 40 percent of employees admit that the quality of their work suffers when they are sleepy, and nearly one out of five report making occasional or frequent work errors due to sleepiness.

NSF's 2000 Sleep in America poll confirms what most busy Americans know already, yet few seem prepared to correct. Sleep experts recommend at least 8 hours of sleep a night in order to function properly. However, one-third of adults sleep only 6.5 hours or less nightly during the work week.

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### Employees of the Month

For a special shared April

employee of the month recognition...

**APRIL** 



Flo Bissell



**Bill Seib** 

howing what true teamwork can accomplish, Flo Bissell (Environmental Analysis Branch), Bill Seib (Regulatory Office) and Arvis
Freimuts (Office of Counsel) provided valuable support to the current participants of the Leadership Development Program. These individuals enhanced the Leadership Development group's writing skills by proofreading their book review assignments. This effort entailed correcting

spelling and grammar errors as well as ensuring effective wording.  $\blacksquare$ 



MAY
Val
Stevenson
Real Estate Division

al provided outstanding service to the District's Special Emphasis Program during Woman's History Month. Val organized two very successful events which enhanced the workforce's ability to integrate women into its ranks. All of these efforts were collateral duties which Val accomplished while keeping her District projects on track. Well Deserved!

Arvis Freimuts

Address Correction Requested

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